

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 6, 2008, the Examiner noted that claims 2, 3 and 5-12 were pending and rejected claims 2, 3 and 5-12. Claims 10-12 have been amended, no claims have been canceled, new claim 13 has been added; and, thus, in view of the foregoing claims 2, 3 and 5-13 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter is believed to have been added. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed below.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – USC § 103

Claims 2, 3, and 5-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feldman (US Patent 6,532,469) in view of Fukushima (US Patent Publication 200/0152051).

Feldman is related to knowledge discovery in collections of data, i.e. text mining (see column 1, lines 6-8 of Feldman). The Office Action, on page 4, acknowledged that Feldman does not explicitly disclose at least one of the objects indicative of the documents pairs having relevancy being displayed while maintaining a before-and-after relationship and relied upon paragraph [0177] and Figure 20 of Fukushima to disclose such a feature.

However, it is submitted that Fukushima fails to disclose such a feature, as quoted below, as claim 9 has been amended to recite "at least one of the objects indicative of the document pairs having relevancy being displayed while maintaining a time context of the document pairs in chronological order".

Fukushima is related to generating and training (or optimizing) parameters used in a text classifier (see paragraph [0002] of Fukushima). Particularly, Figure 20 of Fukushima illustrates a calculation result comparison screen, in which the distribution of the documents having a calculated degree of membership (CDOM) value of 1 is plotted in a solid line and the distribution of the documents having a CDOM value of 0 is plotted in a broken line (see paragraph [0177] of Fukushima). Further, paragraph [0177] of Fukushima describes a graph illustrating the documents CDOM value before and after a parameter update.

Therefore, instead of displaying "at least one of the objects indicative of the document pairs having relevancy ... while maintaining a time context of the document pairs in chronological order", as in claim 9, paragraph [0177] and Figure 20 of Fukushima is merely concerned with displaying a graph that illustrates the documents CDOM value before and after the parameter update.

Further, nothing was found in Feldman or Fukushima that discloses, either expressly or implicitly, the feature "laying out objects indicative of the documents on the relation chart, which

has a time axis, based on the time information, and generating association lines for connecting between the objects of each document pair, depending on the calculated degree of relevancy", as recited in claim 9.

Thus, in view of the above, it is submitted that claim 9 is patentable over Feldman and Fukushima, as neither reference, taken alone or in combination, discloses, either expressly or implicitly, the feature of claim 9, as quoted above.

Claims 10-12, as amended, emphasize similar features as in claim 9. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 10-12 are patentable over Feldman and Fukushima, taken alone or in combination, for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 9.

Dependent claims 2, 3 and 5-8 are also patentable over Feldman and Fukushima, taken alone or in combination, for at least the same reasons as base claim 9, from which they depend.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claim

New claim 13 has been added to emphasize "displaying a relational chart illustrating documents having relevancy and lines connected between the each document pair according to the calculated degree of relevancy and maintaining a time relation of the document pairs in chronological order". It is submitted that new claim 13 is patentable over the cited references, as neither reference, taken alone or in combination, disclose, either expressly or implicitly, at least the features of claim 13, as quoted above.

Summary

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 10/812,021

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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